

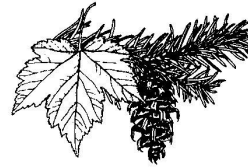
Maiden Wind Farm

Telephone comment by Ginny Kuehn
5/15/02

(NO Name)
Registered Voter
Used to work for the Corps of Engineers

I want to vote against the power generators on Rattlesnake Mountain. I don't think we need them right now. I think it should be carefully studied to make sure it doesn't involve bird migratory patterns and I think some visual pollution needs to be done. The project sneaked upon us.

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Washington Native Plant Society
Appreciate, Conserve, and Study Our Native Flora

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May 14, 2002

Sarah T. Branum
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Mike Shuttleworth
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Dear Ms. Branum and Mr. Shuttleworth:

Thank you for considering the following comments regarding the Draft NEPA/SEPA EIS for the Maiden Wind Farm (Benton County, WA; March 2002). We have limited our comments to two major issues.

There appears to be an inconsistency in the number of acres that will be impacted by the project and require mitigation. The amount of 'priority shrub-steppe habitat' permanently and 'temporarily' displaced are 57.5 and 174.4 acres, respectively.¹ These acreages do not include the damages to the vegetation type referred to in the document as 'grassland-steppe,' which would double the amount of land requiring mitigation (adding 57.2 acres permanently displaced and 187.0 acres temporary disturbed²). The grassland-steppe acreages are included in the following section of the same table, but the reader is referred back to the vegetation section for specific mitigation measures. It therefore appears that damage to grassland-steppe is not being considered for mitigation.

Damages to both 'shrub-steppe' and 'grassland-steppe' types should be mitigated. To quote from the document's description of grassland-steppe, it 'provides cover, breeding habitat, and forage for a variety of bird and wildlife species,' and 'like the shrub-steppe, the grassland-steppe is subject to grazing, with habitat quality varying from poor to good.'³ While the Draft EIS states that much of the area identified as grassland-steppe is dominated by non-native cheatgrass and bulbous bluegrass, it also states that varying amounts of native grasses and forbs also occur, and that scattered sagebrush patches may be present. The document does not

¹ Table S-1 'Potential Impacts and Mitigation of the Proposed Maiden Wind Farm', Section 2. Vegetation.

² Table 3.3-3, page 3-23.

³ Page 3-15. Also see Table 3.3-1, page 3-14.